

Message Text

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SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK/SOVIET PLAN COORDINATION

1. RUDE PROVO AND CTK NEWS SERVICE AUGUST 21 REPORTED SIGNING IN MOSCOW BY CHAIRMEN OF SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK STATE PLANNING COMMISSIONS OF PROTOCOL ON COORDINATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANS FOR NEXT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD (1976-1980).

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, A NUMBER OF SPECIALIZATION AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED IN ENGINEERING SPHERE WHERE TRADE IN RAW MATERIALS RECEIVES HEAVY EMPHASIS. SPECIFIC PRODUCT LINES REPORTEDLY SINGLED OUT FOR COOPERATION WERE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, ELECTRIC MOTORS, MACHINE TOOLS, PUMPING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT, COMPRESSORS, AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. FURTHER BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED TO EXTRACT OIL, NATURAL GAS, AND IRON ORE IN
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SOVIET UNION WITH PROVISION FOR THEIR SUPPLY IN UNSTIPULATED

AMOUNTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE PERIOD.

3. CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL SUPPLY USSR WITH EQUIPMENT FOR CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM REFINING INDUSTRIES, TRAMS, ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES, MACHINE TOOLS, TRUCKS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND COMPUTERS. SOVIETS IN TURN ARE TO SEND CZECHS SUBWAY CARS, MINING EQUIPMENT, TRACTORS, CARS AND TRUCKS, AND RADIO EQUIPMENT. CONSUMER GOODS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN TWO-WAY TRADE, ACNPRDING TO NEWS ACCOUNT, BUT NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN. WATER TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SEEMS TO HAVE HDLD SPECIAL PLACE IN AGREEMENTS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO RECEIVE A 150,000-TON TANKER IN EXCHANGE FOR TEN 400-PASSENGER RIVERBOATS, 38 BUCKET DREDGES, 20 FLOATING PUMPING STATIONS, 34 SUCTION DREDGES, AND 60 CARGO SHIPS FOR RIVER AND OCEAN USE.

4. COMMENT: ON BASIS LIMITED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN PRESS, THERE APPEARS TO BE FEW SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM CURRENT CSSR/USSR BILATERAL ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, AS MOST PRODUCTS TO BE TRADED ARE STANDARD ITEMS IN THEIR CURRENT TRADE. EXCEPTIONS ARE NUCLEAR POWER EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTION OF WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO TRIPLE HERE IN 1976 OVEGF 1975 LEVEL, AND LARGE SEAGOING TANKER. WE DO NOT YET KNOW MUCH ABOUT COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IN FIELD OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS, OTHER THAN ORENBURG PIPELINE PROJECT, BUT CAN SAFELY ASSUME THAT GIVEN THEIR ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE TO CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMY, THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE CLAIM BEING LAID BY SOVIETS ON FUTURE OUTPUT OF CZECHOSLOVAK INDUSTRY. PERRY

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